

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14
HA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06 NSC-05 SS-15 AGRE-00
OES-09 L-03 DLOS-09 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-02 /196 W
-----048744 251549Z /46

R 251457Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8032
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 14416

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, EAID, ETRD
SUBJ: CEREMONIAL OPENING OF EC-ACP NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 12801 (B) BRUSSELS 12353

1. SUMMARY: JULY 24 IN BRUSSELS EC AND ACP MINISTERS
MET FOR CEREMONIAL OPENING OF LOME II NEGOTIATIONS.
OCCASION WAS MARKED BY SPEECHES BY GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER ON BEHALF OF EC COUNCIL, JAMAICAN FONMIN
PATTERSON FOR ACP MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, AND EC COMMISSION
PRESIDENT JENKINS. THERE WAS ALSO GENSCHER-PATTERSON
PRESS CONFERENCE AND A LUNCHEON FOR MINISTERS FROM THE
TWO SIDES. GENSCHER'S SPEECH EMPHASIZED EUROPEANS'
DESIRE TO EXTEND AND IMPROVE MARGINALLY CURRENT LOME
CONVENTION, RATHER THAN MAKE SWEEPING CHANGES, WHILE
PATTERSON SAID ACP EXPECT MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING
EXPANSION OF STABEX. GENSCHER NOTED THAT DURING NEGOTIA-
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TIONS PROPER EC WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY WISH TO INCLUDE:
LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INVESTMENT GUARANTEE PROVISIONS,
AND PROVISIONS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.
PATTERSON THOUGHT NONE OF THESE BELONG IN LOME II. SUB-
STANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BEGIN IN MID-SEPTEMBER.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOME II OPENING FEATURED SPEECHES BY GENSCHER, PATTERSON, AND JENKINS. LATTER'S SPEECH WAS BASICALLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, WITH SUBSTANCE OF EUROPEAN POSITION LEFT TO GENSCHER. TEXT OF THE THREE SPEECHES BEING POUCHED TO EUR/RPE--MCLEAN.

3. GENSCHER BEGAN BY STATING AT SOME LENGTH THE IMPORTANCE THE EC ATTACHES TO EVER RIPENING RELATIONS WITH THE ACP'S, NOTING THAT, "WE REGARD THE NEED TO BASE THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ACP STATES ON PARTNERSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, AND MUTUAL RESPECT AS A KEY ISSUE OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES." HE THEN SAID THAT WHILE THE EC IS PREPARED TO EXPAND THE COOPERATION LAUNCHED UNDER LOME I, IT THINKS THAT "THE GENERAL AIM OF THE NEW CONVENTION SHOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE THE PRESENT ACP-EC CONVENTION...."

4. GENSCHER CONTINUED THAT THE EC DOES, HOWEVER, RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PROPOSE DURING NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENTS TO LOME ON ISSUES STILL BEING EXAMINED WITHIN THE EC. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THE EC IS INTERESTED IN INCORPORATING PROVISIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, MUTUAL PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS, EC-ACP COOPERATION IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR, AND STRENGTHENED CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS IN THE TRADE SECTOR.

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5. GENSCHER SAID THE COMMUNITY, BELIEVING STABEX GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, PROPOSES THE "CONSOLIDATION" OF PRESENT LOME PROVISIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT IF THE ACP COUNTRIES AGREE, THE EC IS PREPARED TO SEE A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE EARMARKED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS.

6. MAIN THEME OF PATTERSON'S SPEECH WAS THAT LOME II SHOULD NOT REPRESENT A HOLDING ACTION BUT SHOULD MEASURABLY EXPAND LOME I PROVISIONS IN MANY SECTORS. SPECIFICALLY, HE CALLED FOR: FREE ENTRY, WITHOUT CUSTOMS DUTY OR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, OF ALL ACP-ORIGIN PRODUCTS; LESS STRINGENT RULES OF ORIGIN; MORE ACTIVE EC ASSISTANCE IN TRADE PROMOTION FOR ACP PRODUCTS; WIDER STABEX PRODUCT COVERAGE; INCREASED EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TRUE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF THESE RESOURCES; AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY, EC ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ACP MARITIME TRANSPORT.

7. IN HIS PREPARED ADDRESS, PATTERSON MADE OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO EC INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS BY

NOTING THAT LOME II MUST BE FOUNDED ON PRINCIPLE OF
"STRICT RESPECT FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN THE PARTNERS. WE
CANNOT THEREFORE TOLERATE THE INCLUSION OF ANY PROVISIONS
WHICH COULD, BY ANY INTERPRETATION, BE USED BY EITHER
PARTY TO COMPROMISE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF A STATE TO
CONDUCT ITS OWN AFFAIRS IN THE WAY IT JUDGES APPROPRIATE."

8. AT END OF HIS SPEECH, PATTERSON COMMENTED EXTEMPO-
RANEOUSLY ON SEVERAL POINTS GENSCHER HAD MADE IN HIS
SPEECH ABOUT EC INTEREST IN NEW OR IMPROVED LOME PRO-
VISIONS. PATTERSON MADE THE SAME POINTS AGAIN IN A LATER
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH GENSCHER. GIST OF PATTERSON'S
REMARKS ON THESE POINTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

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(A) HUMAN RIGHTS: "SUCH A CLAUSE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH
AN AGREEMENT DEALING WITH TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION."
EC HAD NOT FOUND IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE SUCH A CLAUSE IN
THE TREATY OF ROME. ANYWAY, THE SUBJECT IS BEING
ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN THE UN, WHERE ACP COUNTRIES ARE
MEMBERS AND HAVE ENDORSED THE UN CHARTER AND THE UNIVERSAL

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USEEC

DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

(B) PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS: INCLUSION IN LOME UN-NECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE. MOST ACP COUNTRIES' LEGISLATION CONTAINS ADEQUATE PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTING OUTSIDE INVESTORS. IT WOULD, MOREOVER, BE CONTRARY TO THE ACP DESIRE TO ATTRACT NON-EC INVESTMENT TO GIVE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS SPECIAL PROTECTION.

(C) FISHERIES: MOST ACP COUNTRIES ARE NOT AGAINST COOPERATION WITH EC IN THIS SECTOR, BUT BELIEVE QUESTION CAN ONLY BE HANDLED ON BILATERAL BASIS: "I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND 53 (SIC) ACP STATES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON SPECIAL FISHING RIGHTS IN THE FIELD OF THIS NEGOTIATION. THIS IS A DELICATE QUESTION."

9. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE PATTERSON NOTED THAT THE TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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SIDES ARE AGREED THAT SUBSTANTIVE LOME II NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN MID-SEPTEMBER, WITH PROBABLE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER TO GIVE "POLITICAL IMPETUS" TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

10. PATTERSON INTRODUCED TO THE PRESS SIONE TAPE, FINANCE AND HEALTH MINISTER OF TONGA, WHO NOW SUCCEEDS HIM AS PRESIDENT OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HINTON

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